

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

MARCH 1939

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HE SPREADS THE GOSPEL IN JAPAN

TRANSLATION

Forging a Link in the Kingdom

THE picture at the right was taken on August 19, 1938, at Minga, in southern Belgian Congo, in the very region where, a century before, slave raiders were herding their victims onto river rafts. The man on the platform is Missionary Davis, of the Southern Methodist Mission to the Atetela people, of whom there are 300,000 living between the Lubefu and the Lomani Rivers. The other men are native preachers in attendance at their annual conference. Imagine the thrill at receiving the first copies of the New Testament in their own language. It was an historic event in the life of the mission. Twenty-five years ago these people had no written language at all. In 1915 the missionaries published locally some New Testament stories and a catechism. Later some of the books of the New Testament began to appear from the mission press; but not until last summer did these people ever have a completed bound copy of the New Testament. From the conference was sent the following letter of thanks to the American Bible Society, signed by seventeen of the Atetela people:

We the Christians among the Atetela thank you very much for your help in sending us the New Testament in our language. We are exceedingly happy, and we thank God, because from his



love which is in your hearts, you have thus shown us your love.

Many days we have longed for the Bible in our language. But these days we have joy more than can be told with words, because the gospel of Christ is being read in our language.

Many greetings from us.

The letter was brought to America by Dr. Emory Ross, secretary of the Mission to Lepers and secretary of the Committee on African Affairs, who is seen in the picture below formally presenting it to Vice President Frank H. Mann at the meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society on January 5, 1939. By vote of the Board the following message of greeting was dispatched to the Atetela people:

The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, through the hands of your gracious and learned messenger, Dr. Emory Ross, has received with warm hearts your message of gratitude for the publication of the New Testament in the Otetela language. We are, like yourselves, earnest Christians. Only by God's goodness has it been given to us to share in the distribution of his Word throughout the world. We are eager to be true to this trust, for it is a very important one for the advancement of His kingdom.

We pray God's richest blessing upon your churches and your people, and believe that, now that you have this book in your hands and can read for yourselves of the glory of God in the face of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of His glory will shine more abundantly among you, and through you many thousands shall come to know and to love Him.

Here is a new link of Christian friendship that is binding the peoples of different nations and races together in a common loyalty to the King of Kings. There is a strength here which the mighty disruptive forces of man's follies and hatreds can never overcome. "The Word of the Lord endureth forever."



BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution
of the Holy Scriptures

VOLUME 84

MARCH 1939

NUMBER 3

For Spiritual Rearmament

"The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

A call for the enlistment of every RECORD reader

MEN in responsible places are warning that this and every nation needs to rearm spiritually. In campaigning to achieve this end, every reader of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD will appreciate that the chief weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. The American Bible Society has a plan to offer which will stimulate enlistment. It has issued "Read the Bible" stamps in purple and yellow like those pictured below, in sheets of one hundred for one dollar a sheet. By purchasing these stamps and using them on personal and business correspondence, two important things are accomplished: first, the suggestion is broadcast that the Bible be read more; and second, the sale of the stamps will increase the funds of the Society for providing Scriptures at cost or below to those who but for the Society's world-wide service would never know of the Bible at all.

Enlistment in support of any cause is primarily an act of personal commitment. Individual readers of this announcement will be the channel through which the movement will spread. Through them, the interest and active cooperation of Adult Bible Classes, Sunday Schools, Missionary Societies, Ladies' Auxiliaries, and whole churches and neighborhoods may be enlisted.

Just as during the Christmas season the National Tuberculosis Association makes the nation conscious of the curse of tuberculosis upon the lives of the people, and at the same time raises money, through the sale of its seals, to carry on its winning fight against this dread disease, so the American Bible Society, during the Lenten season this year and hereafter, will seek, through the sale of its stamps, to make the nation conscious of the need its citizens have of a knowledge of the Bible and of a wider practice of its teachings, and at the same time hope to raise funds that will provide for a wider distribution of the Scriptures in many languages and in many lands.

To all persons who purchase one or more sheets of these stamps at one dollar each, the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD will be sent for a year. Groups purchasing the stamps may designate the person to receive the magazine.

Any group disposing of fifty or more sheets may designate a person of its choice as a Life Member of the American Bible Society. Orders for the stamps may be sent to the nearest office of the Society (see page fifty-one) or to the headquarters office, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City. The editors confidently expect that their readers will promptly exhaust the initial issue of these stamps.



"Nippon Seisho Kyokwai" Is Born

This is the name given to the "Japan Bible Society" recently organized. It marks another step in the spread of organized Christianity around the world, as well as further progress in the cooperative plans of the older Bible Societies

BY ERIC M. NORTH

NO one who has followed missionary trends has failed to note the courageous manner in which "the younger churches" have risen to the increasing responsibilities which have been thrust upon them in recent years. These churches are growing up in lands where Christianity has taken root only within the last two hundred years. They have undertaken the burden of self-support in religion, which is a new idea in their type of civilization. They have had to form and direct a religious organization—the church—which, though not necessarily Western, is yet new to their ways of religious expression. In all these things the younger churches have made great strides. Better yet, having caught the inner spirit of Christianity, they have undertaken its spread through home and foreign mission societies; small to be sure, but good evidence of their faith, their courage, and their alertness to need about them.

In recent months this sense of responsibility has extended to Bible Society work. Readers of the RECORD will remember that, in the years 1933-35, a number of local Bible societies appeared in several cities in China, and that their representatives have drafted the constitution and plan of a China Bible Society. The event of war in the Far East has unfortunately delayed the actual formation of the operating organization.

During the same period there were discussions of similar import in Japan. Many Japanese leaders had been concerned that the Scriptures in use in Japan should not longer strike the readers as foreign by the imprints of the foreign Bible Societies. This and other related matters were reviewed by Secretary Temple of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Japan

early in 1936, and further developed by the writer's visit there in the spring of 1937. As a result of these conferences with the Japanese advisory committees of the foreign Societies, agreement was reached that these Societies should unitedly adopt "Nippon Seisho Kyokwai" (Japan Bible Society) as the Japanese title for their work and as the imprint on Scriptures. A similar measure was the uniting of the separate advisory committees into one. Hitherto in Japan the northern and eastern half has been the field of the American Bible Society, and the southern and western that of the British and Foreign Bible Society, through whom the National Bible Society of Scotland also shared in the work. The united committee was not only to extend the practice of common counsel, but was specifically to study the possible formation of the Japan Society as an organization.

On October 3, 1938, the constitution so drawn up and reviewed and ratified by the foreign Societies came into effect, and the Japan Bible Society was launched. All lovers of the Bible cause will welcome this youngest of Bible Societies and wish for it every blessing of God. Christians in Japan are highly to be praised for their forward-looking spirit in days that might easily be most discouraging.

Like the western Societies, the essential purpose is the same: the translation, publication, and distribution of the Scriptures without note or comment. The governing body is composed equally of Japanese ministers, of Japanese laymen, and of missionaries; one half are to be chosen from eastern Japan, and one half from western Japan. Half of the group are nominated by the National Christian Council, the representative body of the larger number of

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, DEPARTMENT B. S.
PARK AVENUE AND 57TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

Please send me sheets of "Read the Bible" stamps, for which I enclose \$..... I expect to receive the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD for one year.

Send BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD to

Name

Address



This must be filled out if order comes from a class, society or other group.

BIBLE RALLY
MEETING IN
AOYAMA HALL,
TOKYO,
NOVEMBER 22,
1938, CONDUCTED
UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE
JAPAN BIBLE
SOCIETY



denominations in Japan. The first board of directors consists of the following:

Western Area: Rev. J. A. Foote, Rev. M. Im-
aizumi, Bishop J. C. Mann, Rev. S. Namioka,
Mr. M. Sakada, Rev. C. Yasuda, Rev. H. Baba,
Bishop Basil, Dr. H. W. Myers, Rev. M. Saito,
Mr. G. Yamamoto, Rev. H. Yashiro.

Eastern Area: Dr. C. W. Iglehart, Bishop Y.
Matsui, Mr. T. Matsuyama, Rev. S. Nukaga,
Prof. T. Yamamoto, Dr. E. T. Horn, Dr. Wm.
Axling, Dr. Y. Chiba, Mr. M. Kikkawa, Dr. P.
S. Mayer, Dr. T. Kagawa, Mrs. T. Gauntlett.

The officers are: Bishop Y. Matsui, chair-
man; Dr. H. W. Myers, vice chairman; Rev. H.
Baba, Japanese secretary; Dr. P. S. Mayer,
English secretary.

Executive Committee: The four officers, Dr.
Y. Chiba, Rev. K. E. Aurell, and Mr. G. H.
Vinall.

Especial gratitude is due to Bishop Matsui,
now president, and to those who have worked
with him in the formation of this promising
society.

Nippon Seisho Kyokwai has already given
fine evidence of its spirit by conducting two
large Bible rallies in Tokyo and Osaka. At
Tokyo a half hour's broadcast was followed by
a large meeting (pictured here) in the hall of
Aoyama Gakuin. Here, as throughout Japan
on Bible Sunday, the "Fifty Years of the Bible
in Japan" was the theme; for the whole Bible
was first printed in Japanese only half a century
ago. The response was encouraging; members
were added to the Society; new interest was
apparent. The Osaka meeting was reported
likewise to be encouraging.

Let no one think that the forming of the
"Nippon Seisho Kyokwai" in any way lessens
the need of the American Bible Society, the
British and Foreign Bible Society, and the Na-
tional Bible Society of Scotland for the work
in Japan. The work still to be done is beyond
the capacities of all combined. Nor is there in
it the least evidence of any antiforeign attitude
on the part of the Japanese Christians. At a
luncheon given to the writer by the executive
committee of the National Christian Council in
Japan, President Y. Abe of Aoyama Gakuin
said:

Since the opening of Protestant Christian work in
our country the American Bible Society has made
an immense contribution to the development of the
Christian movement. Your society made possible the
first translation of the Scriptures into Japanese, and
later the revision of the New Testament. During
these many years you have kept our people supplied
with Scriptures in a great variety of sizes, forms
and bindings, and all of them put on the market at
cost or below. Thus you have placed and kept in
our hands the polished and bright sword of the
Spirit, the word of God, as our priceless weapon in
our spiritual warfare. For this, no words can express
our debt of gratitude to the American Bible Society.
In addition, you have, through your aggressive field
workers, maintained year by year a front-line of
vigorous Scripture evangelism. No one can measure
the help which this work has rendered the whole
Christian movement in Japan.

Now you have built a beautiful and worthy build-
ing in the heart of Tokyo, to give its testimony to
the work of Bible distribution, and in kindly con-
sideration of Japanese sentiment you have author-
ized the use of the name Nippon Seisho Kyokwai.
We appreciate all this very deeply indeed. I feel
sure that the American Bible Society and its work

has never been closer to the heart of the church than now.

No doubt the changing years will bring with them many developments in organization and relationships, and judging from the past we can rest assured that these will be worked out with a maximum contribution to the welfare of the Christian world in Japan. Speaking for the National Christian Council, I most heartily pledge our cooperation and loyal support during the coming years. From our hearts we welcome and thank you, and ask you to carry our grateful greetings to the friends in America who have made possible your great work.

These spirited words of appreciation and cooperation have their parallel in the provision of the new Society whereby not only do the

foreign Societies appoint each an ex-officio member of the board of directors, but also the Japan Secretaries of the Societies become the executive secretaries of the new body. In this way the partnership is kept close, and the experience of the older Societies is made useful.

The American Bible Society bespeaks all its friends and supporters their prayers and efforts, that the new Japan Bible Society may speedily enlist the support of all Christians in Japan, and may with wise energy greatly advance the circulation of the Word of God among the millions of the Japanese people, that it may be loved and read by the whole nation as it is now by thousands of Japanese Christians.

. . .

Telling Brazil about the Bible

THERE are over 42,000,000 people in Brazil. On November 10, 1937, this great nation adopted a new constitution marking the transition to the Third Republic. Article 122 of this new constitution reads in part: "All individuals and religious cults may freely and publicly exercise their cults, meet for this purpose, and acquire real estate, observing . . . the exigencies of public order and public morality." Article 133: "Religious teaching may be considered a fit subject for the curriculum in primary, normal, and secondary schools. However, it may not be made an obligatory subject for teachers or professors, nor is attendance by pupils compulsory." Article 137: "Labor shall have the right to weekly rest on Sundays."

In accordance with the spirit of the new constitution, Universal Bible Sunday was celebrated in 1938 with the first nation-wide broadcast on the Bible. The accompanying picture was taken on the occasion. In it appear pastors from five denominations. Old friends of the Bible Society will recognize in the fifth man from the left Dr. H. C. Tucker, who

was the Society's Agency Secretary from 1887 to 1934. To the right of Dr. Tucker is Rev. James Innes, secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society Agency in Brazil. Secretary Turner is next to the last on the right. The address was broadcast by Bishop C. Dacorso Filho, of the Methodist Church in Brazil, who appears at the lectern. Secretary Turner writes, "The whole affair was prepared on somewhat short notice. . . . Next year, however, we shall rent a large hall for the occasion, and include as special guests a number of leading laymen."

In a nation like Brazil where the Bible is little known, the radio will be of relatively greater value to the Scripture cause than in the United States.



Building a New Church on the Bible

The Home Missions Council of North America reports that the most neglected group of foreign-speaking Americans are the Portuguese. Here is a story of progress in this needy field. The Society aided with a grant of one hundred dollars, which will be increased this year

BY JOSEPHINE BAPTIST

"I HAVE become a changed man since I commenced to go to the mission and heard about Jesus. I am so thankful for what Christ means to my life now. I am sorry that this opportunity did not come earlier in my life. So many of the things I used to do, I no longer do, for they do not fit in with the teachings of Jesus." This is the testimony of a Portuguese man in Warren, Rhode Island, where I was engaged to do missionary work beginning January 1, 1938. The work was inaugurated under the joint auspices of the Baptist church in Warren, the Rhode Island Baptist State Convention, and the Rhode Island Bible Society. I spent the first three months in an intensive house-to-house distribution of Bibles, Testaments, and portions. I visited virtually every home in the district, and at every visit I left at least a Gospel portion. Over a thousand calls were made, and nearly two thousand portions of Scripture distributed in the following languages—English, Portuguese, French, Italian, Polish, Hebrew, German, and Swedish.

A large part of this distribution was among the Portuguese. It was found that they were sadly in need of religious and spiritual influence. As they commenced to read and study their Scriptures, they became more and more interested in church life. In the spring a mission was organized, and Rev. John Oliveira, of Providence, was engaged to conduct services for these people in their own language. I assisted in the development of the life of the mission. There is now a Sunday evening service and a midweek meeting held in the homes of the people. Four members of this little fellowship have already been baptized into the membership of the Baptist church in Warren.

In December about fifty of this Portuguese congregation planned a Christmas party—their first party! A pageant was given, in which



MISS BAPTIST TAKES THE RÔLE OF MARY IN THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

these new Portuguese Christians themselves portrayed the story of the birth of the Christ who has brought about so many changes in their lives.

It has been a joy to watch their transformation. Homes that were breaking have been rebuilt on the solid Christian basis. Husbands and wives and whole families have been reunited. The Christian spirit has lifted the level of home life and personal living. Moral attitudes toward drinking, profanity, and gambling have also notably improved. A neighborly spirit is growing up between the English-speaking members of the Baptist church in Warren—which is just entering upon its 175th year—and the group of Portuguese whose newfound joys and interests point toward the early establishment of another church.

Stepping into the Light

A story of the healing power of the gospel, and how the fruits of gratitude and joy are born of it

“DO not come today; for a member of the community was killed last night, and his family and those of the boy who killed him, have both signed up for the Bible Class, and we are afraid to have them meet now,” was the long-distance telephone message which Miss Jessie Pendleton Spencer received one Sunday morning last summer.

It was the logical sequel to meetings in two Negro churches in Virginia, where the young people seldom came together without a shooting, cutting, or some serious trouble. So great had been the change in the community where Miss Spencer, local supervisor of WPA Education and Recreation of Louisa and Fluvanna Counties, Virginia, had introduced the study of the Bible as an adult project, that the Negro supervisor of the county asked her to start a similar course on the Bible in these two churches.

Three months elapsed. Then, under Miss Spencer's supervision, the people gathered to study the Acts of the Apostles. The course aroused great interest, and the classes continued until August, when the annual revivals in the churches began. The Bible, with its leavening power, has been doing its good work; for never since the studies began has any outbreak of lawless conduct been reported in the community.

Illiteracy has been one of the problems which Miss Spencer has had to face in her work with these adult projects. To help in such causes, two years ago the American Bible Society published copies of the Gospels of Luke and John printed in large letters, so that these older “children” and those with impaired eyesight might be encouraged to read and study the life of Christ. These Gospels, to most of the class, were their first readers; and when an old man of eighty-five began haltingly to spell out the words, his progress inspired other illiterates, for they knew “ef old Uncle Tom kin larn, we kin too.” Uncle Tom did learn. When he received, as recognition of his faithfulness, a



WHERE THE BOOK OF ACTS WAS THE FIRST READER

copy of a New Testament and Psalms in very large print which his aged eyes would find easy to read, the whole community gathered to rejoice with him, and while he laboriously “pinted” out the words “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life,” which had been written on the flyleaf, they all were filled with awe.

Friday night is the regular Bible night, and the teachers report that it is hard to get the pupils to leave; for they want to discuss this book until late at night. The Negroes are vitally interested in the Bible, and they accept its teaching with all the faith of a little child.

Having finished the study of the two Gospels, it was decided to take up the Acts of the Apostles, which the American Bible Society has also printed in large type. But, before beginning, these people, with so little they could share, wished to make a thank offering to the Bible Society for giving them the copies of the Gospels that had brought to them these wider horizons of understanding. No one was urged, no pressure was brought on them, but for a month gifts were received; and while they were mostly pennies, these mites will, with the blessing of God and the prayers of these childlike Negroes, accomplish some good in helping others secure the Word.

The culmination of this giving was celebrated one night last December, when all the teachers

of literacy and the pupils in the seven schools of the two counties met at the Abram High School in Fluvanna County. The program included J. L. Blair Buch, state director of the WPA Education program, who is also director of instruction of the State Board of Education; Miss Virginia Gregory, state supervisor; Samuel A. Madden, state supervisor of Negro WPA Adult Education, and Miss Spencer.

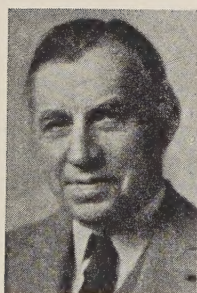
During Christmas week the teachers met four days to work out the lessons in Acts for the first quarter of the new year. The classes started on Friday night, January 6. We are

privileged to look at one of the classes in session. It is being taught in a private home of a former county supervisor, who has become invalided and has to teach in a wheel chair. There were only five present at this first meeting, due to a flu epidemic; but just the teacher and the crippled man on one side of her, and the old Negro who has just learned to read on the other, are enough to justify the promise "where two or three are gathered together in my name." The boys at the right are too young to be enrolled, but asked to be allowed to attend on Bible night.

"The Book of a Thousand Tongues"

The Editor of the "New York Times," a Vice President of the American Bible Society, here contributes some meditations upon the volume edited by Secretary North and just published by Harper and Brothers. He finds the appearance of the book to be the record of "a most significant event in the history of man"

BY JOHN H. FINLEY



Dr. Finley

THE mere title is compelling. It at once sings again the song which I have known since my boyhood days on the prairies, "O for a thousand tongues!" Here has its prophecy been fulfilled in the gift of tongues, the new Pentecost in which every man hears the Word in his own tongue. The hurt of Babel has here been in some measure healed. It is the basis for a universal language. In the story of Babel mention is made of a boy named Peleg, who, it is explained, was so named because in his day the earth was divided—when the confusion of tongues came upon the workmen on the Tower. (Incidentally, it was the first labor strike in written history.) The world is filled with peoples divided into tribes and nations and communities with their innumerable languages and dialects. Even the thousand tongues do not include all that are spoken on the globe. The French Academy, as stated, lists 2,796, though it is difficult to determine when a "variation" becomes a "dialect."

That so many have been translated is due in a large measure to the patient but rewarding labors of the missionaries. And the story of their adventures in philology is as exciting as that of geographical discoveries. Think of facing a page of Guatemalan verbs, any one of which may have 100,000 possible forms. Or of coming in the Belgian Congo upon a pronoun object of a transitive verb "which is put inside the verb," as if for safety. One finds a wealth of words (100) for "greatness" in one African region. In another, on the other hand, one has somehow to get on without a single word for "trust" or "holy," though one finds two words for "lying," and ten for different kinds of "seeing."

Language is, indeed, not only a "solemn thing"; it is a living thing, the sublimate of experience and longing. Through it the soul speaks. In the multiplication of tongues of understanding and communication on the part of human souls is there hope of a unified human race? This exhibit in visualization of the struggle of peoples and tribes toward the things of the spirit is a most significant event in the history of man. There are plans in the making

for a World Council, representative of the churches in behalf of peace and good will in this troubled world. Here are the thousand tongues through which that gospel may be spoken. The Book in its translations may lead the way.

I have many times suggested the organization of the Brothers of the Book. I have thought of it as a brotherhood of those of English speech. But this collection of extracts from the Book in more than a thousand tongues makes me think of a wider brotherhood—a brotherhood of those who, though they speak different languages, have a common denominator in the passages from the Holy Scriptures. Dr. Robert Speer is my authority for saying that approximately nine tenths of the people of the earth might now hear some part of the Bible read in a language they can understand. It is indeed Pentecost come again.

In this new era made possible by the world's growing smaller through instant communication and rapid transportation, this achievement in acquainting practically the entire race with a fragment at least of Scriptures is a most impressive fact in world girdling. As in the beginning was the Word, so in the beginning of this era is the Word, that was and is with God. In eons to come the people of the entire planet

will doubtless be as one community in their ability to hear one another, to see one another. So far perfected will be the instruments of human devising, that the Abkhasian in the Russian Caucasus will be next door to the American in the Rocky Mountains. And, perhaps, the human race will have a daily Pentecost around the globe. But, while we are told that nine tenths of the people of the earth may now hear some part of the Bible, considerably less than two fifths actually possess Scriptures. So, glorious as it is, this exhibit is not merely a story of accomplishment. It is a looking forward to the carrying of the Word into every speech that man has framed his tongue to pronounce or has set down in symbols. It is to prepare the way of the Lord, who (as a poet has said, whose verses I found one night on the editorial galleys)

“. . . has gone on talking since his Book has gone to press,

Who continues speaking to the sons of men:
I think his voice is busy yet, to teach and guide
and bless;

That every time we ask for light, He calls to us
again.”

The Book has opened the way for continuing revelation to human souls that crave enlightenment.



The "Book of A Thousand Tongues" was compiled at the Bible House during the closing weeks of 1938. The Scripture volumes from which most of the exhibits in the book were photographed, together with copies of the new book itself, attracted hundreds of persons through this exhibit in the Bible House window during January and February. The book is meeting with an enthusiastic response. A friend of the

Society writes: "It is a glorious achievement, and will take its place as a book of reference in the libraries and universities of the world for decades and maybe centuries to come." It should also be in every Sunday school library and is a mine of missionary information for every pastor and church worker. The book may be obtained at \$2.50 postpaid by writing to the Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th St., N. Y.

DR. LYDIA
CH'EN

They Are Now Life Members

MR. TIAO
HSIU-CHIH

HERE are the faces of two friends of the Society in China, each of whom has recently made a gift of \$500 to the work. They are both residents of far-off Chungking. Dr. Lydia Ch'en is a physician. After hearing of plans made by the Society's agents for increased circulation,—to get every church member to own his own copy of the Bible; to get copies into the hands of the war sufferers; to distribute Gospel portions to the children who are pouring into Szechwan from the war area,—Dr. Ch'en wrote to Mr. Hudspeth at the Bible House in Shanghai that she desired to contribute a month's income, which she promptly did. More than that, she undertook direct distribution by ordering 2,000 Gospel portions, which she distributes to her patients. She writes, "I am very sure that the greatest need of my country and my people is to know God, to find his way of life. And I am very sure that one of the most effective ways of making him known is through distribution of his holy Word."

Mr. Tiao Hsiu-chih has been for many years the keeper of the Society's book depot at Chungking. He is a humble, consecrated worker, who has had little educational advantages. He has now reached the retirement age, and is in poor health. And here his life story takes on the glow of sainthood. He has made over to the Society the entire amount of the pension which

would be given him for his remaining days, and has added a cash contribution to bring the amount up to \$500.

When one considers the circumstances at present existing in China, one sees in gifts like these the evidence of a depth of conviction and fellowship on the part of our Chinese associates which is positively inspiring.

Look long and searchingly at these two faces. They will tell you what Christ can do in the hearts of people high and low in a land of over four hundred million, who may yet someday lead the world onward toward the Kingdom.

Dr. Ch'en and Mr. Tiao are now Life Members of the American Bible Society—a relationship which is established upon the gift of fifty dollars or more at one time. This record of their faith and interest should produce several Life Members from among grateful Bible lovers in America.

Similar devotion from another quarter of the globe comes with the word recently reaching the Bible House of a gift of approximately \$500 from the will of Dawoud Bey Takla, a native of Upper Egypt. At his death, ten years ago, he provided that, after the conditions of certain bequests in his will had been fulfilled, the American Bible Society among other charitable enterprises should receive a part of his estate. What a power for righteousness is the fellowship of Bible lovers around the world!

BEFORE this issue goes to press, the San Francisco Fair will have opened. An international exposition would be incomplete without the Book of All the Nations. The American Bible Society is there. Visitors to the Golden Gate will find in the



Temple of Religion a large chart loaned by the Society, listing the 1,021 languages into which some part of the Scriptures have been translated. In the Vacationland Building, the Society's booth will be in charge of Dr. R. W. Bayless, its Pacific coast representative.

1,021 Languages

THE work of the missionary translators goes steadily onward. Last year about this time the Society reported that some part of the Scriptures had been translated into 1,008 languages. The year culminated on Universal Bible Sunday in the fitting celebration of the fact that the number had passed the thousand mark. "The Book of a Thousand Tongues" appearing at the close of the year further commemorates the achievement. (See Dr. John H. Finley's review on page 45.) But already the former figure is out of date. On January 1, 1939, it stood at 1,021. In ten of the added thirteen languages the volumes actually made their first appearance during 1938. The other three were discovered as having appeared earlier. An analysis reveals that the whole Bible now appears in 180 languages, the New Testament in an added 219 languages, at least an entire book of the Bible in 539 more, and selections in still 83 more. The new languages added to the list since our last report a year ago are:

Eskimo: Western Canada	Mackenzie Delta	St. Luke
Kekchi	Guatemala	St. John
Toba	Argentina	St. Mark
Romany: Yugo-Slav	Yugoslavia & Bulgaria	St. Luke
Sarawak	North Borneo	St. Mark
Tho	Indo-China	St. Mark
Ikota	French West Africa	St. Mark
Pero	Nigeria	St. Luke
Luba: Kalebwe	Belgian Congo	St. Luke
Salampasu	" "	St. Mark
Wongo	" "	St. Luke
Nyungwi	Mozambique	Gospels, Acts
Hangaza	Tanganyika	St. Mark

. . .

"God Keep Your Hands"

BY E. W. G. HUDGELL

Mr. Hudgell is secretary of the joint agency known as Bible Lands Agency, South, embracing Palestine, Transjordan, Egypt, Sudan, and Western Arabia. In these lands he serves both the American and the British and Foreign Bible Societies.

CAIRO, that center of Arabic literature, has lost a link with the past in the death of Edward Van Dyck at the advanced age of ninety-three. It was his father, Doctor

Cornelius Van Dyck, who completed the translation of the Arabic Bible, published in 1864 by the American Bible Society and quickly adopted as the standard by all except Roman Catholics.



Mr. Edward Van Dyck



Dr. Cornelius Van Dyck

The potential range of Arabic is wider, perhaps, than that of any language on earth save English. Hence the importance of this version, and of the labors of the men who produced it.

Edward Van Dyck was born in Sidon and took an early interest in his father's work. Taught by him, he learned how to set type for the Arabic Bible, which was produced at the American Press in Beirut.

Just at the close of the Civil War he came to America, where he lived near the Bible House for about two years with his father, and worked long hours daily on the plates of the Arabic Version, which is known now everywhere by his father's name. After completing his university course in this country, Edward Van Dyck entered the Consular Service, serving in Beirut, Cairo, Istanbul, and Washington. Subsequently, the call of the East took him back to Egypt, where he served the Egyptian Government at the Law School in Cairo till his retirement in 1914. To the end of his days, it was in linguistic ability as well as in face and feature that he closely resembled his illustrious father.

The hands that helped to set the types have ceased in death. But the fair words they framed live on and proclaim the Eternal Gospel to generation after generation. To Edward Van Dyck belongs the salutation which the handiwork of the Arab craftsman brings—"Sallim 'idaik," "God keep your hands."

EDITORIAL COMMENT

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

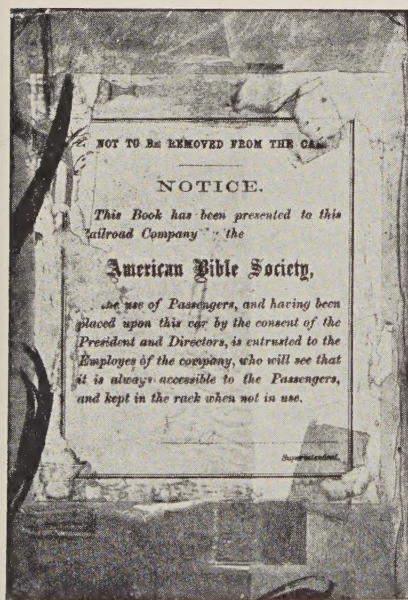
*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy
Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES
Address correspondence to Francis
Carr Stifler, Editorial Secretary,
Bible House, New York



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THE *Norfolk and Western Magazine* carries an interesting story in its January issue entitled "When Trains Carried Bibles," from which we have borrowed the accompanying picture. It is of the inside



cover of one of the Bibles furnished in the seventies by the American Bible Society, and states that it is "for the use of Passengers, and having been placed upon this car by the consent of the President and Directors, is entrusted to the Em-

ployees of the company, who will see that it is always accessible to the Passengers, and kept in the rack when not in use."

The article from which we quote is full of human interest, stating that by 1874 twenty railroads had placed the necessary receptacles in their cars, and had received their allotment of Bibles. One conductor reported at least "one third of his passengers partaking diligently of the Holy Word." After the Bibles had been distributed on one road, the superintendent issued an order to the effect that any employee having received a Bible and afterwards known to use profane language would be discharged.

To supply the railroads at present in the way they were supplied sixty-five years ago would require an investment far beyond the Society's capacity. The Society is prepared, however, with the co-operation of the railroads, to supply every passenger coach, baggage and express car, Pullman car and caboose with suitable Bibles, if some patriotic citizen who knows how truly America finds her roots in Holy Scripture, and how desperately she needs clean literature for her traveling public, will furnish the necessary funds.

CIRCUMSTANCES are changing rapidly in Spain as we go to press. Meanwhile a friend of the Society sends the following notice which, of course, was written before Barcelona fell:

"In *España Evangélica* of Madrid, under date of November 10, 1938, the agent of the

Bible Society of that city reports that over 35,000 copies of the Bible, New Testament, and portions of the Bible were sold in the republic (Loyalist zone) during the first three months of the year, and at that rate by the end of 1938 the number would be higher than in all Spain before the war. In Barcelona the Bible and different parts are being sold at the bookstores as well as at the branch of the Bible Society there. . . . Larger contributions are coming in from the Spanish Protestant churches than before the war, with the comment: "This work must not stop."

• •

FROM *The Bible in the World*, the monthly publication of the British and Foreign Bible Society, we quote the following note concerning the co-operative work in China:

In reply to a question as to how the new arrangements are turning out, whereby our Society and the American Bible Society work in close cooperation, Mr. Hudspeth declared emphatically that there are enormous gains in the unity of purpose and service that have been achieved.

We have one Bible, and the people of China appreciate the fact that it is being published and circulated by what is virtually one Society.

• •

THE one thousandth tongue in which the Scriptures were published is listed in "The Book of a Thousand Tongues" as the Sakata, a language used by about 70,000 people living in the Belgian Congo. The Gospel of St. John is the only book as yet published in this language. Copies of St. John's Gospel in Sakata are available

in very limited quantities at the various offices of the American Bible Society at thirty cents postpaid. RECORD readers interested in possessing one of these little volumes may secure one while they last by writing the nearest office of the Society.

• •

PROFESSOR JOSEPH NOVOTNY, of the International Baptist Seminary, East Orange, New Jersey, informs us that Czechoslovakia is the only nation in the world that has a single word for the man whom the first psalm praises by saying, "Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." The Czechoslovaks have a single word for this man—"Písmák." It is a Czech idiom which cannot be translated into any other language. It means a man who loves the Bible, reads it daily, and meditates about its contents.

• •

THE *New York Times* Book Review for January 15, 1939, carried a report of the survey recently conducted by the American Institute of Public Opinion on the favorite books of Americans. The skill with which these surveys are made commands the attention of every thoughtful person. The specific question propounded in the poll this time was, "What is the most interesting book you ever read?"

It is encouraging, though not unexpected, that the Bible, long the best seller, should have topped the list. This was also true in the similar poll taken in 1937. Probably it has been so for decades. A more sobering thought arises, however, when

one studies the analysis by age groups. While among people fifty years or older thirty-seven percent named the Bible first, only seventeen percent of those between thirty and fifty so voted, and of those under thirty only six percent found the Bible their favorite. Here lies a solemn challenge to our homes and our Sunday schools. Dark days lie ahead for an America in which the ruling generation does not rank the Bible above all other books.

• •

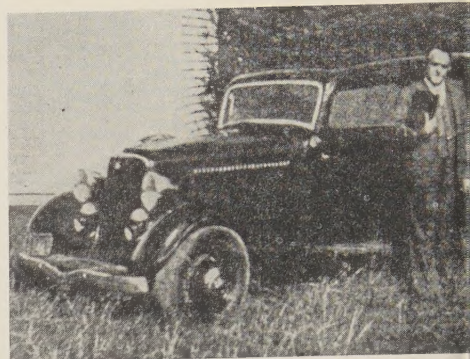
LITTLE Navajo children in the Good Shepherd Mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Fort Defiance, Arizona, are faithfully supporting the Bible Society. In the letter from Mrs. Elizabeth D. Ferguson, conveying the gift of five dollars, we read:

Our children ranging in age from 3 to 16, mostly 8 to 12, without any prompting from the staff voted this amount, after Mr. Helms, our superintendent, told them about the Bible being printed in the different languages. They have the missionary spirit; they put a penny in each side of their church envelope, every Sunday, earning the money by doing little odd jobs for the staff. Those too young to work are given their money by different members of the staff.

• •

REV. M. M. BUSSEY, a Nazarene minister, has made a wonderful record, in that he has distributed an average of forty-one New Testaments each day during the year 1938. This brings his total to about 12,000 for the year.

Dr. Bussey puts all his efforts on the complete New Testament, and distributes very few other volumes. He believes so completely in the need of the world for the message of



Christ, that he allows nothing to interrupt his continuous efforts. The picture shows Mr. Bussey standing by his car, in which he has traveled more than one hundred thousand miles, giving away two hundred thousand gospel tracts, and carrying to the needy sections more than seventeen thousand New Testaments.

February Meeting of the Board

THE tenth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-third year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York, on Thursday, February 2, 1939, at 3:30 p. m., President John T. Manson in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Assistant Secretary Boyd.

The minutes of the ninth stated meeting of the year were approved.

Mr. W. H. Ochiltree being present was introduced to the Board.

A resolution acknowledging the scroll from the Atetela people of Africa was read.

Sample sheets of "Read the Bible" stamps were presented, and the plan of promoting their sale explained.

Minutes of the various standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

A grant of 10,000 copies of the Gospel of St. John in French to the Belgian Gospel Mission was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

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